

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00354 011749Z

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 8 NOW VICE NOT)

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, APER, UN

SUBJ: UN PERSONNEL: APPOINTMENT OF DIR OTC (UN) AND

DIR OF ADM, CONF, AND GEN SERVICES (UNIDO)

REFS: (A) STATE 018857

(B) USUN 177

(C) VIENNA 316

SUMMARY: AMB BENNETT AND MISOFF CALLED ON ASYG KITTANI TO EXPRESS
IN STRONGEST TERMS US. DISPLEASURE OVER CAVALIER TREATMENT ACCORDED
USG RE APPOINTMENT OF AMERICANS TO TOP-LEVEL SECRETARIAT
POSTS. BENNETT INSISTED APPOINTMENT OF NON-AMERICANS TO SUBJECT
POSTS BE HALTED IMMEDIATELY AND AMERICAN CANDIDATES
BE NAMED TO REPLACE INCUMBENT AMERICANS. INTENSITY AND
SERIOUSNESS OF USUN DEMARCHE RECOGNIZED BY KITTANI, WHO
HAS CONVEYED SUBSTANCE TO SYG. EXPECT MEET WITH SYG SHORTLY
TO FOLLOW UP INITIAL
DEMARCHE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00354 011749Z

1. AMB BENNETT, ACCOMPANIED BY MISOFF, MET WITH ASYG KITTANI

SHORTLY AFTER NOON JAN 30 RE PENDING UN SECT APPOINTMENTS FOR DIR OF OTC (UN) AND DIR OF ADM, CONF, AND GEN SERVICES (UNIDO). BENNETT OPENED BY EXPRESSING IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT PRIOR US REPRESENTATIONS INCLUDING THOSE MADE BY AMB SCALI, ASST SEC POPPER, AND OTHERS RE APPOINTMENT OF AMERICANS TO SECT POSTS HAD APPARENTLY FALLEN ON DEAF EARS IN UN. CONTINUING, BENNETT SAID PATIENCE OF USG HAD BEEN FULLY TESTED AND NO LONGER WOULD WE STAND BY WHEN SYG AND OTHERS FILLED VACANT POSTS WITH NON-AMERICANS WHEN WE FELT WE HAD SUBMITTED OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES AND HAD LEGITIMATE CASE RE MAINTAINING BALANCED US GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION IN SECT. BENNETT EMPHASIZED THAT, IF PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUES AND US CANDIDATES AND REPRESENTATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN MORE SERIOUS ATTENTION, IMPLICATIONS FOR UN LIKELY TO BE SEVERE. BENNETT ADDED THAT SYG AND OTHERS APPEARED TO HAVE GROSSLY MISREAD USG IN THAT, WITH U.S. PUTTING FORTH CANDIDATES AND DISCUSSING THEIR PLACEMENT IN UN IN BUSINESSLIKE MANNER AND WITHOUT DESK-POUNDING, THIS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONSTRUED BY SYG AND SECRETARIAT AS LACK OF STRONG INTEREST ON PART OF USG IN HAVING AMERICANS PLACED IN INFLUENTIAL POSTS, VIS-A-VIS CANDIDACIES SPONSORED BY OTHER DELS; QUITE THE CONTRARY, WZ EXPECTED SAME CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO OUR CANDIDATES AS TO OTHERS. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, OUR METHODS HERETOFORE HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED, AND MORE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN UN PERSONNEL MATTERS BY SYG AND OTHERS BEING ACCORDED THOSE DELS WHOSE APPROACH MADE IN MORE EMOTIONAL AND DEMANDING TONES. BENNETT CONCLUDED BY REQUESTING THAT KITTANI CONVEY TO SYG IMMEDIATELY DEEP CONCERN AND DISSATISFACTION USG OVER THIS SITUATION IN GENERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR RE SUBJECT POSTS.

2. RE UNIDIO POSTS, BENNETT AND MISOFF POINTED OUT US CANDIDATES WERE SUBMITTED TO UN MONTHS AGO, QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH VARIOUS UN OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK AS WELL AS BY US REP TO UNIDIO IN VIENNA, BUT FAVORABLE ACTION HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN. REPORTEDLY, APPARENTLY, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN SYG WALDHEIM AND ABDEL-RAHMAN (A-R) TO PROMOTE BARBOSA (BRAZIL) TO UNIDP POST VACATED BY BIRCKHEAD. BENNETT SAID USG WAS NOW INSISTING THIS APPOINTMENT NOT BE MADE AND THAT US NOMINEE AMB FINLEY BURNS BE APPOINTED. IN RESPONSE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00354 011749Z

KITTANI SAID A-R RECENTLY HAD DISCUSSED WITH SYG THREE UNIDO VACANCIES AT D-2 LEVEL FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY BIRCKHEAD, STEPANEK, AND WARD AND HAD DECIDED APPOINT BARBOSA DIR OF ADM; AND UNNAMED AMERICAN TO REPLACE STEPANEK; AND AN EGYPTIAN (AFFIFI) TO REPLACE WARD. BENNETT SAID US HAD NOT OBJECTED TO AFFIFI APPOINTMENT (ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE COULD BE MADE OF POINT THAT AFFIFI IS REPORTEDLY BLOOD RELATIVE OF A-R), BUT THAT WE EXPECTED AMERICANS TO BE NAMED TO OTHER

TWO POSTS. KITTANI SAID A-R HAD TOLD HEM HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF BARBOSA APPOINTMENT RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON WITH DEPT OFFICIALS, WHO HAD "CONCURRED" IN THAT APPOINTMENT. HE THEN ADDED THAT BRAZILIAN PERMREP FRAZAO WAS SEEING SYG AT SAME TIME BENNETT AND MISOFF WERE MTG WITH HIM. ON BENNETT'S URGING, KITTANI IMMEDIATELY CALLED WALDHEIM TO INFORM HIM THAT BENNETT WAS IN HIS OFFICE AT THAT MOMENT DISCUSSING UNIDO APPOINTMENTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THAT OF BARBOSA AND TO ASK THAT SYG MAKE NO COMMITMENT TO BRAZILIAN PERMREP. SYG TOLD KITTANI A-R HAD ASSURED HIM USG HAD "CONCURRED" IN APPOINTMENT, UT THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF TO SAY THERE WAS "NO REACTION" FROM USG OFFICIALS WHEN A-R INFORMED THEM OF PENDING BARBOSA APPOINTMENT. BENNETT IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGED THIS, SAYING THAT APPARENTLY A-R WAS ENGAGED IN GAMING SINCE USG OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, VIENNA, AND NEW YORK HAD MADE REPEATED DEMARCHES TO ENSURE AMERICAN NAMED TO REPLACE BIRCKHEAD. KITTANI THEN CHECKED WITH DIR OF PERS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER BARBOSA PROMOTION ACTED UPON BY UN APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BOARD AND WAS TOLD THAT APPOINTMENT PROMOTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THREE VACANT D-2 POSTS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER BY A-R TO UN IN NEAR FUTURE. FINALLY, KITTANI SAID HE WOULD CONVEY IMMEDIATELY TO SYG VIEWS EXPRESSED BY BENNETT AS WELL AS CALL A-R TO INFORM HIM.

3. TURNING TO OTC, BENNETT AND MISOFF RECOUNTED BACKGROUND RE OUR EFFORTS OBTAIN AMERICAN TO REPLACE STIG ANDERSEN. KITTANI SAID CROOKS (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO), PRESENTLY D-2 HEAD OF HOUSING, BLDG AND PLANNING IN ESA, WOULD BE ASSUMING OTC POST. (SUBSEQUENTLY MISOFF LEARNED TRANSFER OF CROOKS TO TAKE PLACE END OF THIS WEEK AND ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE TO THAT EFFECT IN SECT.) DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED IN MTG THREE WEEKS AGO ATTENDED BY SYG, DAVIDSON, DE SEYNES, AND KITTANI. DRAWING ON REF A, BENNETT EMPHASIZED EXTREME DISPLEASURE OF US OVER THIS TURN OF EVENTS, WHICH WAS MORE INEXCUSABLE SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 USUN N 00354 011749Z

ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN US BY USYG DAVIDSON THAT AN AMERICAN WOULD BE NAMED TO OTC POST. IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT BY KITTANI, MISOFF LAID OUT IN DETAIL LONG HISTORY OF OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AMERICAN FOR OTC POST. KITTANI EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER PAST RECORD OF OUR EF
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